

## AIDS TO NAVIGATION.

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JANUARY 15, 1897.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union and ordered to be printed.

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Mr. CORLISS, from the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce, submitted the following

### REPORT.

[To accompany H. R. 9600.]

The Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 9600) entitled "A bill to provide for aids to navigation," beg leave to submit the following report, and recommend that said bill do pass, with an amendment.

The communications from the Treasury Department and Light-House Board, herewith submitted, show the necessity and importance of this legislation.

The committee recommend that the bill be amended by striking out, in line 6, the words "forty-five thousand dollars."

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TREASURY DEPARTMENT,  
Washington, D. C., January 13, 1897.

SIR: Referring to my letter of December 17, 1896, in regard to proposed new aids to navigation in New Haven Harbor, Connecticut, I have the honor to transmit, herewith, for the further information of your committee, copies of two joint reports of the inspector and engineer of the Third light-house district, dated April 16 and May 13, 1896.

The Light-House Board states that in compiling its estimates for new aids, to be transmitted to Congress, only those were included that seemed to be most urgently required by the demands of commerce, and, as stated in the note at the head of the estimates, the new works in each district were arranged as nearly as practicable in the order of their necessity. It will be noted that of the fourteen new fixed aids recommended for the Third district, the new light on New Haven Breakwater, Connecticut, was third in the general order of importance.

Respectfully, yours,

S. WIKE,  
*Acting Secretary.*

The CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE ON INTERSTATE AND FOREIGN COMMERCE,  
*House of Representatives.*

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OFFICE LIGHT-HOUSE ENGINEER, THIRD DISTRICT,  
Tompkinsville, N. Y., April 16, 1896.

SIRS: We have to acknowledge the receipt of the Board's letter of April 6, 1896, requesting joint report and estimate of cost of establishing a light on breakwater to mark the western entrance to New Haven Harbor, Connecticut.

After a careful consideration of the matter we recommend that there be established on and at a point about 75 feet from the southeast end of the western breakwater referred to an iron tower similar to that at Great Beds, Raritan Bay, New York and New Jersey.

We further recommend that the characteristics of the illuminating apparatus be fifth-order lens, flashing white, in order that it may readily be distinguished from the lights on shore or from those on vessels at anchor behind the breakwater.

The estimated cost of the proposed structure, with illuminating apparatus, etc., complete, is \$75,000.

Very respectfully,

H. M. ADAMS,  
*Major, Corps of Engineers, U. S. A.,*  
*Engineer Third Light-House District.*

A. S. SNOW,  
*Commander, United States Navy,*  
*Inspector Third Light-House District.*

The LIGHT-HOUSE BOARD, *Washington, D. C.*

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OFFICE OF INSPECTOR, THIRD DISTRICT,  
*Tompkinsville, N. Y., May 13, 1896.*

SIRS: We have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the Board's letter of May 9, 1896, and the accompanying copy of petition signed by Mr. H. B. Plant and others, asking for certain changes and improvements in the harbors of New Haven and Branford.

In compliance with the Board's request for a joint report and recommendation as to the necessity for and advisability of making the changes in question, we would state that we have given the matter careful consideration, and report as follows:

(1) There being already a light-house (Southwest Ledge) at the western end of the east breakwater, and a new light recommended to be established at the south-eastern extremity of the new breakwater, we are of the opinion that no other light is required for sufficiently lighting the entrance to New Haven Harbor, and therefore do not recommend placing one on the east end of old breakwater, as called for by the petition.

(2) For the reasons given in the petition—"the existence of a great many oyster stakes near it"—we recommend that a red nun buoy be substituted for the red spar, No. 12, now in place at Round Rock, entrance to New Haven Harbor.

(3) The Cow and Calf Rocks being uncovered at high water, and Blyn Rock also showing, except at unusually high tides, when it is just awash (the latter being approachable by vessels of moderate draft close to), and there being an unobstructed entrance to Branford Harbor between Taunton Rock and Jeffrey Rock, we do not consider that either of the rocks referred to by petitioners need to be marked by a beacon, and therefore do not recommend it.

Respectfully,

H. M. ADAMS,  
*Major, Corps of Engineers, U. S. A.,*  
*Engineer Third Light-House District.*

A. S. SNOW,  
*Commander, United States Navy,*  
*Inspector Third Light-House District.*

The LIGHT-HOUSE BOARD,  
*Washington, D. C.*